

and for the Constitution of the United States
as having been divinely inspired.

Howdown On Berlin?

ING on the wall is be-
in the aftermath of
l—and illegal—liquida-
of Soviet commandant in

gnificant for a number
he London Times has
stage in the long cam-
ne the position of the
a Berlin. It is an aban-
nsibility by Soviet au-
could be less accessible
means the Russians are
n ever in reducing ten-
discussion.

t, it seems to be a step
g-threatened signing of
treaty with East Ger-

vidently is to force the
all questions of access
East German regime we
he next step, of course,
obtain formal recogni-
any.

d not do. Why? Be-
laying into Soviet Pre-



mier Khrushchev's hands by dividing the
Allies and West Germany.

The Kremlin is not so much interested
in official recognition, as such, of East
Germany as it is in who recognizes East
Germany. That's why Moscow hardly
lifted a finger to help East Germany in
its unsuccessful efforts to be recognized
by Ghana, Guinea, and even Cuba.

Instead, the Kremlin wants recognition
of East Germany by the U.S., Britain and
France solely because it would drive a
wedge between the Big Three and West
Germany. That's because West Germany
hopes ultimately that the two Germanys
will be reunited, but Allied recognition of
East Germany would be taken to mean our
acquiescence to a permanent division of
Germany.

THE ALLIES MUST avoid getting put
into such a position because it might
tempt West Germany to seek reunification
by going over to the Communists—which
would be a tragedy because of West Ger-
many's strategic location and industrial
might.

Moreover, if we were pushed out of
Berlin by this or any other means, it
might be seen as a sign that our will to
resist encroachments on what's rightfully
ours had weakened. This, in turn, could set
off a whole new round of Communist
pressure and aggression elsewhere in the
world.

Still, the day seems to be coming when
Russia may well carry out its threat to
sign a separate peace treaty with East
Germany.

What will we do then? What action will
we take if East Germany, instead of the

WAGON TRACKS ON DESERT GHASTLY REMAINDER OF—

The Donner-Reed Tragedy



By WILLIAM B. SMART
(Editor, Editorial Page, The
Deseret News)

PETE McKELLAR is not the
sort of man to see ghosts.
His ranch at the base of Pilot
Peak demands too much of a man's
attention and energies to afford
him the luxury of dreaming of the
past or feeling the presence of its
long-dead actors.

But if ever a man lived amid
ghostly whispers of a dramatic
past, Pete McKellar is that man.

His clapboard ranch house looks
down on the last 10 miles of the
sticky, salty mud flats through
which men and women and oxen
and mules struggled in desperate

Slimy Salt, Mud And Steep Hills Stalled Party; Set Stage For Mutiny And Starvation.

40-Mile Grassless Stretch

WHY travel 250 miles farther
than necessary? he de-
manded. Why follow the old trail
in the great arc it made northwest
from Fort Bridger to Fort Hall,
then southwest again to the Hum-
boldt River in Nevada? Why not
strike out across the Wasatch,
past the south end of the lake, and
straight across the desert to the
Humboldt?

There were some slight diffi-
culties, to be sure, the greatest of
them being a 40-mile stretch with-
out grass or water across the salt

same area, and seven more days of
resting and hauling out mired
wagons before they were able to
move on toward California.

Following their trace, it was
easy to see why. The first part of
the trail west from the low, long
line of hills known as the Grey-
back wandered through head-high
sand dunes, where dense clouds of
dust nearly suffocated the early
travellers. It must have been
hardly an encouraging approach to
the much more terrible ordeal that
lay ahead.

In this area, a single plant spe-

Five wagons of the Donner-
Reed party were left forever in the
desert. No complete record is avail-
able of the number of animals lost.
One survivor set it at 36. James
Reed entered the desert with nine
yoke of oxen, two to a yoke. He
left it with one ox and a cow.

* * *

Even Hope Was An Illusion

BY THE time the party had
forced its way to within three
or four miles of Floating Island,
loads were being dropped and
wagons abandoned. From there it
became a grim battle for mere sur-
vival as teams were cut loose from
their mired wagons and driven west
toward the promised water.

Disappointment dogged every